



Greetings FHI Stakeholders!

See below for updates, announcements, and save the dates from the Family Homelessness Initiative.

INITIATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

FHI ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE:

The FHI Advisory Group meets every other month; the next meeting is scheduled for March 11th. The agenda includes a discussion of the FHI Work Plan and 2015 Washington Families Fund System Innovation Grant proposal concepts, as well as updates on the Realignment process and coordinated entry.

Past agendas and meeting summaries can be found on the FHI website.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - NEWS & UPDATES:

Coordinated Entry System – Final Report Presented to IAC

At the March 2 meeting, the IAC affirmed the overall vision for coordinated entry for all populations that was presented by the CEH Funders. This vision supports the recommendations from Katharine Gale's report. Some of the key items included in the future CEA model are: a decentralized assessment model (multiple entry points for families to access the assessment), one centralized agency to oversee referrals and operations, development/adoption of a new assessment/screening tool, integration of the current CEA database in to HMIS, and the creation of an oversight body for CEA for all populations.

The CEH staff and FHC funders are working on a proposed model for decentralization and will begin to look at prioritization. An outline of next steps and timeline will be shared with the FHI Advisory Group at their March meeting.

One of the specific recommendations that was moved forward for action at the meeting was the recommendation to remove FUP vouchers from FHC, which the IAC approved. Both programs that have KCHA FUPs in the system have been contacted and are working with FHC to close out their programs.

Domestic Violence Programs Waiver – Update: Per the approval to temporarily allow DV programs to opt out of coordinated entry, all DV transitional housing, RRH and Rental Assistance programs that were in FHC have chosen to be removed. As of this month, all DV programs will be filling units outside of FHC utilizing the Day One system.

If survivors are in need of confidential housing, they can be sent to any DV program in the county. If they are in need of non-confidential housing, they can continue to call 211 to get connected with FHC.

FHC staff has begun calling the families on the roster that have identified the need for confidential housing to find out if that need is still current, and/or if they need mainstream housing plus DV services. They will explain to families that DV housing is no longer accessed through FHC. They will be given the option to stay on the FHC roster for non-confidential housing (if that is a good fit) or they can explore DV housing options with a DV agency. Advocates will work with survivors who enter DV programs to make sure contact is made with FHC if the family was previously on the list.

Click on the following link ([Final Report](#)) to review the report. In addition, you can find all the materials from the community meetings as well as regular updates on the [CEA page](#) of the website. If you have any questions about the process, please feel to contact Michelle Valdez at michelle.valdez@cehkc.org

Diversion Pilot Update

In 2014, the City of Seattle, Building Changes, and CEH's Family Homeless Initiative launched a Diversion Pilot with the goal of diverting families who are living in places not meant for human habitation from having to enter the shelter system. This process allows families to be moved quickly from the street to housing while freeing up our limited shelter resources for the most vulnerable. One year in to the Diversion Pilot, we are continuing to see exciting results.

- 35% (411 families) seeking shelter have been engaged in diversion (either at FHC or with one of the four partner agencies). So far, of the 411 who have explored diversion options, 60% (244 families) have successfully been diverted.
- The average cost per family: \$1,327

System Realignment Work

Realignment efforts continue to proceed with the five agencies participating in this first phase of realignment (Compass Housing Alliance, Hopelink, Solid Ground, Wellspring Family Services, and YWCA). Current efforts involve:

- Completing a review of contractual agreements
- Addressing any potential regulatory requirements that may prohibit realignment
- Completing a feasibility analysis to ensure the permanent model to which an agency is planning to realign is financially viable

Next Steps:

- Continuing to support and forward realignment with agencies participating in first phase
- Continue to evaluate progress and impacts of current shifts
- Explore potential candidates for the next phase of realignment

Please contact Triina Tennelo (triina.tennelo@cehkc.org) if you are interested in participating in the next phase of realignment or if you have any other questions.

Systems Innovation Grants (SIG)

Kids Plus Pilot Project (K3P) We are excited to share that Building Changes has approved a recent proposal submitted for Washington Families Fund System Innovation Grants. This is a collaborative effort between CEH, Building Changes, King County Homeless Housing, Seattle HSD, and Public Health. The grant will expand Kids Plus Program capacity by extending services beyond the current six month federal funding restrictions. This funding will also provide an opportunity to develop program evaluation measures to analyze cost savings to the health care system for Kids Plus services which are currently non-reimbursable under the Medicaid system in Washington State and provide a basis for advocacy for a change in payment policy.

Prevention Navigator for Immigrant and Refugee Families to Reduce the Disproportionate Impact on Families of Color (I/R Prevention Navigator) CEH is partnering with Building Changes on the Prevention Navigator for Immigrant and Refugee Families proposal to target resources for families highly likely to become homeless without assistance. The proposal will build and strengthen collaborations among immigrant and refugee serving agencies to better provide tailored services and flexible financial assistance to targeted families. This grant will create a full-time navigator position to build and create referral pathways among key systems and providers AND will provide flexible funds to housing agencies allowing them to target homeless prevention dollars to meet the need of a vulnerable population. We are in the process of reviewing applications and completed site visits with selected agencies over the next week and hope to have a grantee(s) selected by the end of March.

Shelter to Housing Project

For shelter providers who are receiving Shelter to Housing System Innovation Grants: The next implementation check in is scheduled for March 25th, 9:30-11. Please save the date. More details will be provided as soon as possible.

Risk Mitigation Funds Launch

Building Changes is making Risk Mitigation Funds (RMF) available to King County (through the Washington Families Fund, System Innovation Grants). CEH Family Homelessness Initiative and Building Changes have been working closely with key stakeholders and local funders to develop this project. Risk mitigation funds will be made available for transitional housing projects that reduce screening criteria to further increase system access to households experiencing homelessness. This includes transitional housing projects in the process of realignment.

We invite **Transitional Housing providers serving families experiencing homelessness** to attend the launch meeting to learn more about the project and RMF guidelines. Details and RSVP information below.

Monday, March 23, 2015

2:00 – 3:30pm

Mercer Island Public Library

(4400 88th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 98040)

For directions: <http://www.kcls.org/usingthelibrary/locations/directions.cfm?locID=28>

Please RSVP by March 16th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RMFLaunchRSVP>

Due to the size of the venue and number of programs potentially eligible for these funds, we ask family transitional housing programs to please send no more than two to three representatives. We would suggest including senior leadership and a staff person responsible for property/asset management, if applicable.

Please feel free to contact Triina Tennelo (triina.tennelo@cehkc.org) should you have any questions.

Provider Spotlight: Imagine Housing

In 2013, the Supportive Services staff, members of the board, and some current and former residents of Imagine Housing developed a Philosophy of Care (attached) to guide the work we do with residents at our Imagine Housing properties. Imagine Housing's Philosophy of Care was created to communicate to potential residents, staff, volunteers, Board members, funders, and community partners the fundamental beliefs that determine how we provide supportive services to our residents and what kind of supportive services we provide. Our Philosophy of Care also can be used to evaluate whether the services we or our partners provide at our properties are truly aligned with the values of our organization. During 2015, Imagine Housing is embarking in the next phase of our Philosophy of Care – expanding our philosophy to all of the work that we do as a whole organization. This will include developing trainings for current and future staff, Board members, and organizational partners to assure our Philosophy is not only being strived for but achieved through the work we do throughout our organization.



If you would like to celebrate any news or accomplishments, please let us know!

OTHER NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS & UPDATES:

The Washington State Domestic Violence Housing First Program

The final Evaluation Report for the Domestic Violence Housing First project for 2011-2014 is now complete and available on their website. DV Housing First is a partnership between the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and domestic violence programs throughout the state of Washington working to eliminate housing as a reason for survivors to stay in abusive relationships. Domestic Violence Housing First eliminates housing as a reason for survivors to stay in abusive relationships by providing advocacy and a flexible approach to support that gives survivors the ability to establish a home and the freedom to choose how best to rebuild their lives. Key components of Domestic Violence Housing First include: tailored services, mobile advocacy, housing search support, landlord education, and temporary financial assistance. In addition, they've also updated their Immigrant & Refugee and Native American Survivors Fact Sheets and made a new Evaluation Findings One-Pager, which are great resources for information about the impact of the DVHF program.

2015 Racial Equity Fund Applications Being Accepted

Applications for the City of Seattle Office for Civil Rights 2015 Racial Equity Fund are now being accepted!

Background: The City Council approved funding for grants to Seattle's community-based organizations to build capacity in the community to address structural racism. Key dates:

- **March 9 – Racial Equity Open House and Proposal Symposium**, 2-5 pm at New Holly Gathering Hall
- **March 27** – Due date for written applications and requests for oral presentations
- **April 13** – Decisions announced

Contact Gabriella Sanchez at 206-684-5845 or gabriella.sanchez-stern@seattle.gov ; or [Click here for more information](#).

2015 National Family and Youth Conference Materials Now Available Online

Presentation materials from the 2015 National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness workshops are now available on the Alliance website. The materials cover a wide range of topics discussed during conference workshops, from the sexual exploitation of homeless youth, meeting the needs of homeless survivors of domestic violence, rapid re-housing in high-cost rental markets, and much more. We will continue to add workshop presentation materials to the website as they become available. If you are a conference presenter who would like materials from your workshop added to the website, please email Alliance Communications Associate Emanuel Cavallaro at ecavallaro@naeh.org.

Conference Presentations

Job Opportunity: Youth Housing Connection

King County is now hiring for the CEH position that will manage YYA coordinated entry referrals and serve as the central contact for YHC-- see the position posting (Project/Program Manager I – Youth and Young Adult Coordinated Engagement Lead) and application details at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/jobs.aspx>. This is a time-limited position (up to 12 months).

Please share with your networks and encourage all interested candidates to apply!

UPCOMING FUNDING OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Rapid Re-housing Webinar – Spotlight Communities: Trenton, NJ and Los Angeles

On Tuesday, March 10, at 2 p.m. ET, the Alliance will host a webinar that highlights the rapid re-housing strategies of Mercer County (Trenton), NJ and Los Angeles. During the webinar leaders from these communities will discuss how they have significantly expanded their capacity to rapidly re-house families. The speakers will

highlight the strategies they used to develop a coordinated entry system, expand rapid re-housing, lessons learned along the way, and the impact the shift has made in their larger homeless service system.

[Register for the webinar](#)

Join Change Management for Leaders Training on March 25

Organizational change is often difficult even in the best of circumstances, yet some leaders are able to transform the uncertainty of change into new opportunities and greater success. Join the Training and Development Institute at the Washington State Convention Center on March 25 to learn how to effectively manage change while generating positive morale and ensuring higher productivity levels.



Community members can register for the training [here](#).

WHAT'S COMING NEXT FOR FHI

Monthly FHI Stakeholder Information Session

The Family Homelessness Initiative staff host monthly information sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the work of the Initiative. This is an opportunity to hear about current projects, what is coming up next, and to ask questions and provide input. The FHC Feedback Meetings, which are an opportunity for service providers and partners to hear updates on new policies/procedures at FHC and to provide feedback, will directly follow the Info Session each month.

THE NEXT FHI INFO SESSION will be:

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

9:00-10:00am

(Immediately followed by the **FHC Feedback Meeting** from 10:00-11:00am)

Location: 2100 Building (2100 24th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144)

Topic: Updates on Initiative strategies, including Rapid Rehousing and next steps for coordinated entry

Contact Triina Tennelo at triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov or visit the Initiative website for more information on the Info Session or Yasin Darmulo at yasind@ccsww.org for more information on the FHC Feedback Meetings.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about any of the above updates, or if you would like us to share any announcements, opportunities, or items on your behalf in future monthly emails, you can contact Michelle Valdez at michelle.valdez@cehkc.org.

Please feel free to contact any FHI staff member for more information or technical assistance:

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Visit our website to learn more about the Family Homelessness Initiative or to locate any of the documents referenced in this email at www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness.

For more information on the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) or to see the most recent monthly newsletter, go to the website at www.cehkc.org